

Please amend the Application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing compacted free-flowing lacquer raw materials based on nitrocellulose comprising:
moistening fibrous lacquer raw material with a solvent selected from the group consisting of water and alcohol; and
pressing the moistened fibrous lacquer raw material~~[[,]] which is moistened with alcohol or water,~~ through the holes of a die having a plurality of holes.

2. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein said process is carried out at a pressing ratio, P, as represented by the following formula,
$$P = (\text{length of bore}) \div (\text{diameter of bore})$$

of from 0.5 – 5.0.

3. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the lacquer raw material is pressed through the die holes by means of one or more circulating breakers.

4. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the lacquer raw material is pressed through the die holes by means of one or more oscillating wheels.

5. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 further comprising shearing off the compacted lacquer raw material, below the die, into pieces of selected length.

6. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the lacquer raw material has a nitrogen content $\leq 12.6\%$.

7. (Previously Presented) A compacted free-flowing lacquer raw material based on nitrocellulose prepared by the process of Claim 1.

8. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 2 wherein said pressing ratio P is from 0.5 to 3.0.

9. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the compacted free-flowing lacquer raw material has a moisture content of at least 25 %.